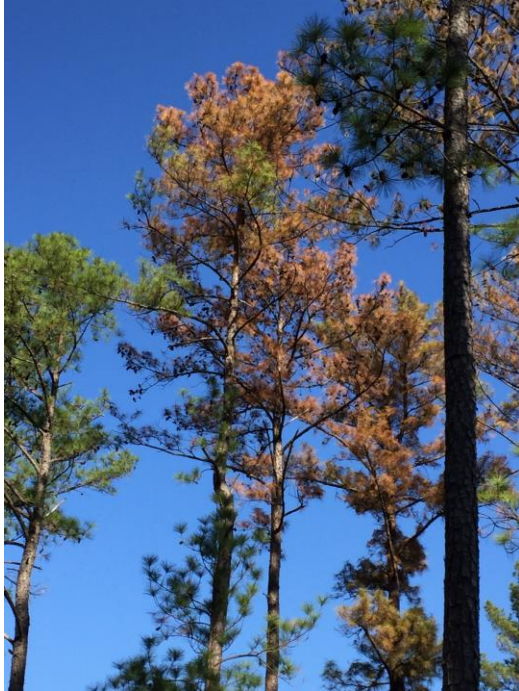


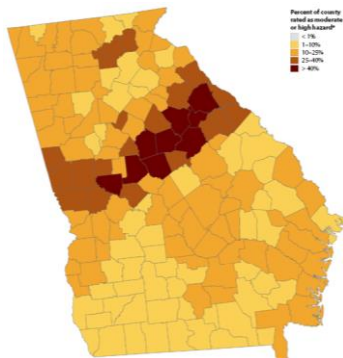
Responding to Ips Bark Beetles

The U.S. Forest Service is moving quickly to assess and respond to an outbreak of Ips bark beetles in central Georgia. Tree mortality has already exceeded historic levels with hundreds of infestation hotspots ranging from .1 to 75 acres in size.



Symptoms of Ips bark beetle

Ips bark beetle outbreaks are strongly associated with the drought conditions ongoing in Georgia. Infestation is increasing with warmer than usual winter temperatures, causing devastating impacts across public and private landownerships.



Pine Beetle County Hazard Rating



Under the bark of an infested tree
southernforesthealth.net/insects

Immediate action is critical to forest health and ensure a resilient ecosystem. Our priority is to treat and protect habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker, an endangered species.



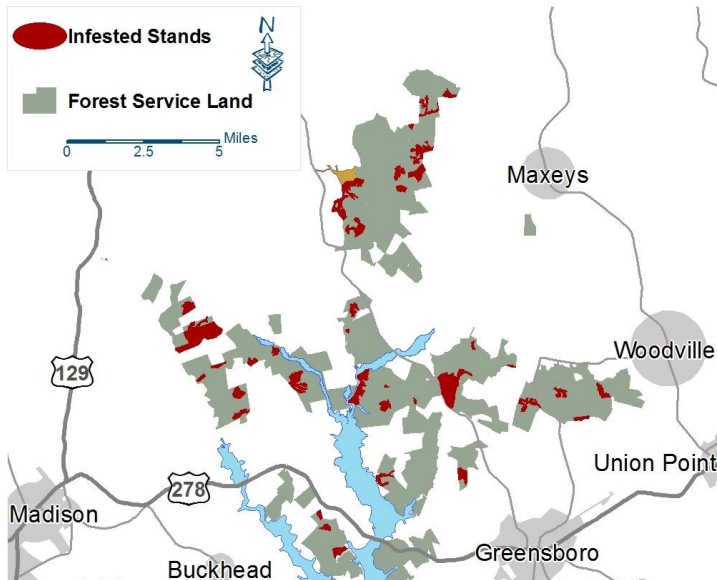
Endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker



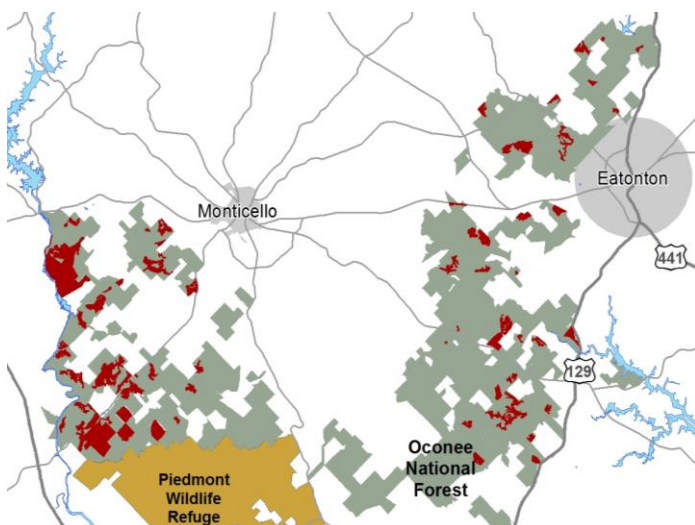
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Protecting the forest landscape

Ips bark beetle infestation is likely to increase, causing devastating impacts across the landscape and likely affecting local economies from private landowner timber losses.

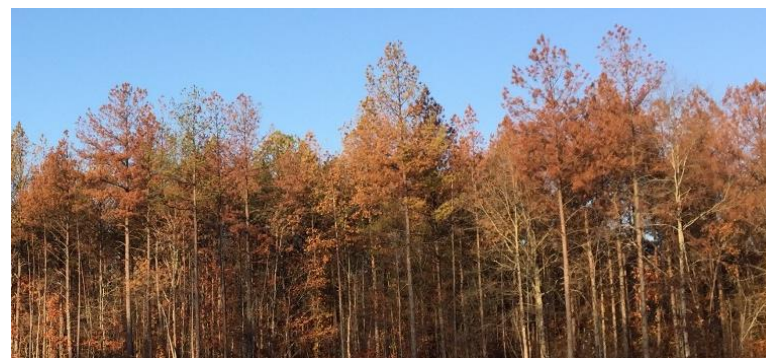


The Oconee National Forest is working to minimize further impacts in areas adjacent to private landowners. Private landowners should take immediate action to help prevent the spread. For help contact the Georgia Forestry Commission at 1-800-GA-TREES (428-7337) or www.gfc.state.ga.us.



Forest Service employee assesses damage

The national forest is conducting salvage timber sales that will allow for quick removal of infested trees by private contractors who sell the timber to pulp and paper mills. Removing infested trees is the only option to actively treat affected areas. Ips bark beetles will migrate from felled trees to infest remaining healthy trees unless immediately removed after cutting.



Large hotspot near Monticello, GA

Learn about the Oconee Forest Health & Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project at: <http://go.usa.gov/x9Vq2>



Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests

1755 Cleveland Hwy.
Gainesville, GA 30501

770-297-3000
www.fs.usda.gov/CONF